

CM Murad Ali Shah to present traders' stance on lockdown in NCC meeting

Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah has assured the traders' community of Karachi that he would present their point of view on whether or not to lift the lockdown in the next NCC meeting to be chaired by PM Imran Khan on the coronavirus crisis in the country. He said this while talking to a delegation of traders which comprised of BMG Chairmen Siraj Qasim Teli, KCCI President Agha Shahab and KCCI Senior Vice President Arshad Islam among others. *The News.*

'Business activities to continue till May 31 as per notified timings' Sindh Minister for Information Nasir Shah has said that business activities all over Sindh will continue till 31st May '20 as per the directives of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The National Coordination Committee is scheduled to meet under the PM within the next two days to decide on what to do regarding the lockdown. *The News.*

PM addresses virtual high-level meeting on 'Financing, Development in era of COVID-19' PM Imran Khan participated in a virtual High-Level Event on Financing for Development (FFD) in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond. In his address to the High-Level Event, he shared his vision on possible ways to address the debt issue and the enormous financial challenges facing developing countries. The High-Level Event is being hosted by the PM's of Canada and Jamaica and the UN Secretary General. A select number of Heads of State and Govt. have been invited to address the High-Level meeting. *The Nation.*

Budget to be presented on June 12 The Federal govt. is expected to present the budget FY21 in the National Assembly (NA) on 12th Jun'20 for discussion and approval. It would also be laid before the Senate on the same day for discussion and recommendations. President Dr Arif Alvi has already summoned a session of the NA on 5th Jun'20 at 4pm. However, the govt. has also decided to summon a special joint-sitting of the Parliament under 18th Constitutional Amendment between 5th-12th Jun'20 for passage of important bills. *BR.*

Budget 2020-21: PKR 216Bn subsidy for power sector likely The federal govt. is likely to earmark PKR 216Bn subsidy for the power sector, including K-Electric (KE) in federal budget FY21, to be announced in the second week of Jun'20. Of this, PKR 201Bn is expected to be earmarked for Pepco's entities whereas PKR 15Bn will be for K-Electric. *BR.*

Refunds: FBR to facilitate five sectors' exporters in budget FBR has assured Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood that budget FY21 would facilitate exporters to expedite payment of sales tax refunds to the five leading export sectors including textile, leather, carpets, surgical and sports goods. During the meeting, the Advisor further directed the FBR to ensure speedy payment of pending duty drawback claims and rebate to the exporters. FBR had paid refunds of PKR 15.11Bn during Apr'20 against PKR 6.66Bn in Apr'19, reflecting an increase of PKR 8.45Bn. *BR.*

FBR directed to simplify tax laws Ministry of Finance has dropped several tax proposals recommended by FBR while directing the apex trade body to focus on simplification of tax laws, procedures and removing anomalies in the FY21 Budget. FBR had proposed taxing a few sectors to raise revenue in order to achieve the collection target of PKR 5.1Tn for FY21. *Dawn.*

Pakistan likely to shelve foreign bonds plan till year end Pakistan is likely to delay a plan to sell sovereign bonds in international capital markets till this year end due to weak investor appetite amid the pandemic and availability of low-cost foreign inflows from multilateral and bilateral creditors for the country. The govt., in budget FY20, had unveiled a plan to raise \$ 3Bn by issuing sovereign bonds in FY20. *The News.*

Locust losses estimated to go beyond PKR 500Bn Agriculturists, during an online meeting hosted by Sindh Abadgar Board, have advised the Federal and Sindh govt.s to iron out their differences to jointly combat an impending locust crisis that could render PKR 500Bn in losses to the agriculture sector. They complained the reason for the extraordinary increase in locust infestation is essentially lack of control measures that were not put in place in a timely and effective manner. *The News.*

Consignments of N95 masks stuck at ports Several consignments of N95 masks are stuck at the ports, as the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has refused to grant no objection certificate to commercial importers for sale or distribution of the masks in the market. Importers said that the commercial import and sale of these masks is not allowed which is causing severe shortage and price hike of these goods. *The News.*

Manila rice tender: REAP urges govt to make 'serious' efforts towards getting enlisted Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) has urged the federal govt. to make some concrete and serious efforts for enlisting in the international rice tender issued by Philippine govt. The Philippines International Trading Corporation (PITC), which is the govt. procurement company of the Philippines, is in the process of major rice procurement for the country. However, the PITC has limited the tenders' importing origins. Initially, bids were invited only from the exporters of two countries, ie, Thailand and Vietnam for supply of some 0.3Mn tons of Irri-6 for domestic consumption. *BR.*

Retail investors: SECP revises procedure for allocation of shares SECP has revised procedure for allocation of shares to retail investors on public offer of securities by issuers i.e. companies, special purpose vehicles and body corporate. Under the regulations, "Issuer" in relation to securities, means any person including a company, a special purpose vehicle and a body corporate, who has issued or proposes to issue a security and includes an offeror. However, the retail investor would cover an investor who bids for a security or make an application for subscription of a security out of the offer size allocated to the general public. *BR.*

Auto plants see partial revival amid confusion Confusion has gripped the auto industry as some assemblers are freely operating in Karachi on claim of getting official permission, while others are avoiding restarting their operations in the absence of any official notification from the Sindh govt. Pak Suzuki Motor Company Limited (PSMCL) has yet to resume operations at its assembly plant, meanwhile, Indus Motor Company (IMC) has resumed its plant operations. *Dawn.*

PKR 169Bn raised through PIBs The govt. has raised PKR 168.8Bn through auction of Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs), exceeding its target of PKR 125Bn. PKR 81.45Bn was raised for 3-year bonds with a cut-off yield at 7.64%, PKR 57.9Bn for 5-year instrument at 8.05%, PKR 27Bn for 10 years at 8.69% and PKR 2.5Bn for 15-years at 9.97%. *Dawn.*

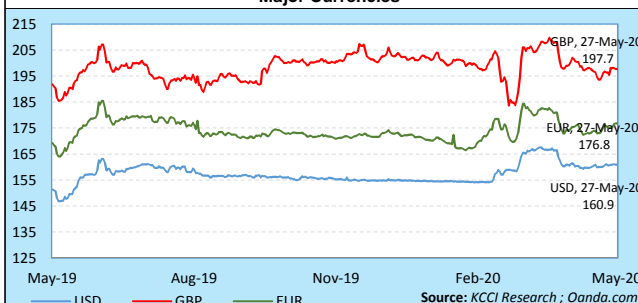
SBP reserves fall \$ 55Mn Forex reserves held by SBP decreased by \$ 55Mn to \$ 12.07Bn during the week ended 21st May'20 due to external debt repayments while holdings of commercial banks improved \$ 35Mn to \$ 6.52Bn. Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country stood at \$ 18.6Bn. *Dawn.*

Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	28-May	PKR	160.80	0.02%
USD-Open MKT	28-May	PKR	161.50	-0.31%
KSE-100 index	28-May	Pts.	33,695	-0.70%
FIPI	28-May	\$ Mn	-2.90	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	28-May	\$/bbl	33.66	4.31%
Gold (MA'19)	28-May	\$/oz	1,723.2	-0.53%
Gold (10g) Local	28-May	PKR	88,800	0.46%
Silver (MA'19)	28-May	\$/oz	17.92	3.42%
Cotton(KHI)-40 kg	28-May	PKR	9,217	0.00%
Kibor-6M	28-May	%	7.90	-0.22%
Forex Reserves	21-May FY20	\$ Bn	18.60	-0.11% YoY
Remittances	Jul-Apr 20	\$ Bn	18.78	5.51%
Exports*	Jul-Apr 20	\$ Bn	18.41	-3.92%
Imports*	Jul-Apr 20	\$ Bn	37.91	-16.50%
Trade Balance*	Jul-Apr 20	\$ Bn	-19.50	25.68%
Current Account	Jul-Apr 20	\$ Bn	-3.34	-70.80%
Foreign Direct Inv.	Jul-Apr 20	\$ Bn	2.28	127.00%
LSM Growth*	Jul-Mar 20	%	-5.40	
Avg. CPI	Jul-Apr 20	%	11.22	
Discount Rate	May-20	%	8.00	

Sources: KCCI Research, PMEX, NCCPL, KSE, SBP, PBS*
** Not Meaningful on week;

Major Currencies

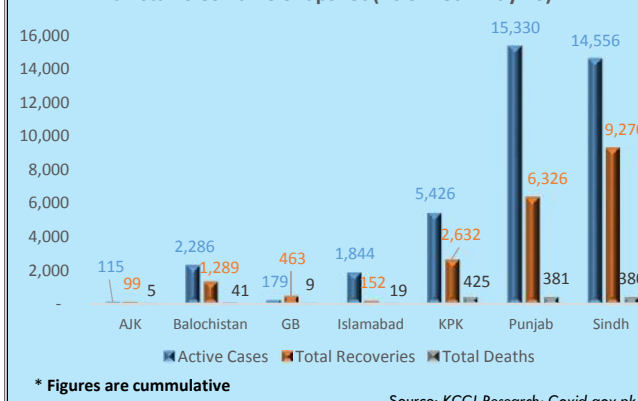


Quote of the Day

"Public trust is essential to public safety."

Martin O'Malley

Pakistan's Covid-19 Snapshot (As of 28th May'20)



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